IN THE CLAIMS:

The status of the claims is as noted below.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for saving and restoring an operational ~~setting~~ settings of ~~an~~ a test instrument[[,]] run by software, comprising the steps of:

initiating ~~the~~ a saving operation for saving a set of values reflecting settings of, and adjustments to, the test instrument made by a user;

~~initializing, by each software object of any software object below it;~~

~~initializing~~ determining each of the internal variables belonging to each of a plurality of hierarchical ~~the~~ software objects employed in the operation of the test instrument; ~~and~~

saving the determined results to a file in a hierarchical structure corresponding to the hierarchical structure of the software objects;

recalling the file on a test instrument different from the test instrument from which the internal variables were stored; and

setting the operational settings of the different test instrument in accordance with the recalled internal variables.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the file is modular so that only a portion of the stored internal variables need be restored at any time.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the internal ~~variable is~~ variables are designated in the file by a hierarchical path.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the internal ~~variable is designated in the file by a hierarchical address~~ variables may be modified by a change in any of the controls of the test instrument.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the ~~format of the file is human readable text~~ internal variables are modified to conform to any requirements of the different test instrument.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the file constitutes a computer program.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6 wherein the computer program ~~in~~ is an industry standard programming language.

8. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the industry standard programming language is Visual Basic Script.

9. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for saving and restoring operational settings of ~~an~~ a test instrument ~~instrument,~~ run by software, comprising:

means for initiating ~~the~~ a saving operation for saving a set of values reflecting settings of, and adjustments to, the test instrument made by a user;

~~means for initializing, by each software object of any software object below it;~~

means for ~~initializing~~ determining each of the internal variables belonging to each of a plurality of hierarchical ~~the~~ software objects employed in the operation of the test instrument; ~~and~~

means for saving the determined results to a file in a hierarchical structure corresponding to the hierarchical structure of the software objects;

recalling the file on a test instrument different from the test instrument from which the internal variables were stored; and

means for setting the operational settings of the different test instrument in accordance with the recalled internal variables.

10. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the file is modular

so that only a portion of the stored internal variables need be restored at any time.

11. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the internal ~~variable is~~ variables are designated in the file by a hierarchical path.

12. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the internal ~~variable is designated in the file by a hierarchical address~~ variables may be modified by a change in any of the controls of the test instrument.

13. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the ~~format of the file is human readable text~~ internal variables are modified to conform to any requirements of the different test instrument.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the file constitutes a computer program.

15. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim [[9]] 14 wherein the computer program ~~in~~ is an industry standard programming language.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the industry standard programming language is Visual Basic Script.

17. (New) A method for saving and restoring an operational ~~setting~~ settings of ~~an~~ a test instrument[[,]] run by software, comprising the steps of:

initiating ~~the~~ a saving operation for saving a set of values reflecting settings of, and adjustments to, the test instrument made by a user;

~~initializing, by each software object of any software object below it;~~

~~initializing~~ determining each of the internal variables belonging to each of a plurality of hierarchical ~~the~~ software objects employed in the operation of the test instrument; ~~and~~

saving the determined results to a file in a hierarchical structure corresponding to the hierarchical structure of the software objects;

recalling the file on a test instrument different from the test instrument from which the internal variables were stored; and

modifying the internal variables as determined by the different test instrument;

setting the operational settings of the different test instrument in accordance with the recalled, modified internal variables.